

Dear New and Returning Glencoe Families,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year! I hope this first newsletter finds you and your family well. Whether you are new to Glencoe or a returning Gull, we can't wait to see you! I hope you all had a chance to rest and recharge this summer, and are almost (but not quite) ready to return to school. I am so excited to be back for my second year in this wonderful community! It is our mission to create an educational environment where your student is an active participant in an inclusive community that cares, collaborates, and perseveres.

To ensure a smooth start to the year, I have included important back-to-school information below. There is a lot to share, so please read carefully to hit the ground running on August 27!

Please reach out to me [kgunderson@pps.net](mailto:kgunderson@pps.net), or to Laurie and Chris in the office, if you have any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,  
Katie Gunderson

### **Construction**

You may have noticed that our parking lot and building entrance are undergoing some ADA improvements. The district has communicated that all updates are scheduled to be finished by August 24, in time for our back-to-school reopening on the 27.

### **Community Care Day**

Each year our community comes together to beautify our campus before the first day of school. This year's Community Care Day will be this **Saturday, August 17 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**. Despite the construction going on in front of the building, there is plenty to be done on the playground to make it kid-ready! Please come by for all or even just part of the time. We appreciate all you do to make our building a beautiful place for our students to learn!

### **New Parent Communication System**

PPS has adopted the parent communication platform "Remind." Remind will automatically send notifications to the email address or cell phone number you have on file with Glencoe. If you would like to change how you receive information from us, please get the Remind app to manage preferences in your settings.

### **Placement Letters**

All families will receive a placement letter with their child's teacher assignment. These letters are sent by post and will be mailed early next week - Monday or Tuesday, August 19 or 20.

## Dismissal Form

Please fill out a [Dismissal Form](#) for your child **before the first day of school**.

## Schedule Changes in 2024-2025

Please note that there is a new district-wide elementary school bell schedule this year. The school day will go from 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM. For Glencoe this will only affect our end time, making the school day 15 minutes longer.

## Early Release

In addition to the daily change, we will also have a monthly early release Wednesday. On these days, students will be dismissed at 11:50 AM, with lunch provided at school. Please see the [PPS District Calendar](#) for these and other important dates.

## Free Lunch

Breakfast and lunch are now provided free of charge in all PPS schools! The cafeteria is no longer able to take cash or checks for milk, but children can take a fruit and vegetable from the lunch line if they brought a lunch from home and would like a regular or chocolate milk.

## Kindergarten Families

Kindergartners begin the year with a “soft start.” This means that the first two days of school - Tuesday, August 27 and Wednesday, August 28 - Kindergarten teachers will meet with families individually to learn more about them. Placement letters will include your scheduled date and time for this meeting.

Thursday, August 29 and Friday, August 30 your child will be assigned to attend a full day of school on one of these days with half of their class (*see your placement letter for details*).

Tuesday, September 3 will be the first full day for all Kindergarten students. There will be a Kindergarten parent “Welcome and Orientation” coffee after drop-off at 8:15 AM in the cafeteria.

We would like all of our kindergarten students to have an opportunity to meet each other and their teachers before the first day of school. **Glencoe will host a Meet and Greet “On my Way to K” event on the playground from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Saturday, August 24.** If you can’t make this first meet and greet, don’t worry. We plan to host another one later in the fall.

## First - Fifth Grade Families

The first day of school for 1st - 5th graders will be **Tuesday, August 27**. More complete details about logistics can be found in the Glencoe Family Reference Guide (linked below).

### **Glencoe Family Reference Guide**

Information on the first day of school, arrival and dismissal times and locations, transportation, lunches, technology and more can be found in our [Glencoe Family Reference Guide](#).

### **Glencoe Family Handbook**

For specific information on how to reach staff members, or for answers to questions about school policies, please see our [Glencoe Family Handbook](#).

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook**

As we prepare for the new year, please take time to understand our district-wide behavior expectations, and your students' rights as they pertain to discipline. At Glencoe we aim to create a partnership between home and school that is based upon clear communication and shared expectations. Sometimes, as students learn and grow, they test boundaries or use behavior to communicate. When these behaviors affect the community around them, or interfere with a safe learning environment, we follow guidance from the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#) to ensure we are in compliance with district, state, and federal guidelines and that we are following [Restorative Justice](#) practices.

### **Upcoming Community-wide Events**

- **Saturday, August 17 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM** - Community Care Day at Glencoe
- **Thursday, August 22 from 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM** - "Back-to-School Play Date" on the Glencoe playground (all Glencoe families invited!)
- **Saturday, August 24 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** - "On my way to K!" event on the Glencoe playground (*Kindergartners only, please!*)
- **Tuesday, August 27 at 8:00 AM** - First day of school for 1st - 5th grades. Kindergarten family meetings (August 27 - 28, please see placement letters for time and date.)
- **Thursday, September 19 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM** - Back to School Night - Open House style (more information to come.)

I look forward to having the chance to connect with you all, either at one of these events or throughout the year. Please reach out to me any time at [kgunderson@pps.net](mailto:kgunderson@pps.net) or at 503-916-6207.

Sincerely,

***Katie Gunderson***

Glencoe Principal